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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, MARCH 12, 2003

PETITION OF

UNITED TELEPHONE - SOUTHEAST, INC.                      CASE NO. PUC-2002-00074

For Extended Local Service from  
United Telephone-Southeast, Inc.'s  
Saltville Exchange to its Glade Spring,  
Meadowview, and Abingdon Exchanges

FINAL ORDER

In December 2001, telephone customers in United Telephone-Southeast, Inc.'s ("United") Saltville Exchange petitioned the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") for Extended Local Service ("ELS") to United's Glade Spring, Meadowview, and Abingdon Exchanges. On March 12, 2002, the Commission received from United a cost study for the Saltville Exchange that was used to estimate the change in monthly rates that would result from the requested extension of local service.

On July 16, 2002, the Commission issued an Order directing United to poll its Saltville Exchange customers to determine whether a majority of those customers were willing to pay an increase in rates for local calling to the Glade Spring, Meadowview, and Abingdon Exchanges. United submitted the results of its poll to the Staff on September 25, 2002. The majority of those responding supported the proposal.

On November 5, 2002, United submitted the cost studies used to determine the monthly rates for extended local calling from the Abingdon, Meadowview, and Glade Spring Exchanges to the Saltville Exchange. Because the resulting rate increase for one-party residential customers did not exceed five percent of the existing monthly one-party residential flat rate for the Abingdon Exchange, a poll of these customers was not required pursuant to § 56-484.2 of the Code of Virginia. A wires cost study also indicated that a poll was required in the Glade Spring and Meadowview Exchanges.

Pursuant to the provisions of § 56-484.2 of the Code of Virginia, by Order dated January 6, 2003, the Commission directed United to poll its Glade Spring and Meadowview Exchange customers to determine whether a majority of those customers would be willing to pay an increase in rates for local calling to its Saltville Exchange. The Order further directed United to file the results of its poll with the Commission on or before March 13, 2003.

On January 30, 2003, United filed the results of both polls. United noted that 2,383 ballots were mailed to its Meadowview Exchange customers and 677 (28.41 percent) were returned. The results further reflect that of the ballots returned, 307 (45.35 percent) voted "yes," and 370 (54.65 percent) voted "no." In its filing concerning the Glade Spring

Exchange, United noted that 1,584 ballots were mailed to its Glade Spring Exchange customers and 489 (30.87 percent) were returned. The results further reflect that, of the ballots returned, 203 (41.51 percent) voted "yes," and 286 (58.49 percent) voted "no."

NOW THE COMMISSION, upon consideration of the matter, is of the opinion and finds that because a majority of Meadowview Exchange and Glade Spring Exchange customers voted against extension of local service to the Saltville Exchange, the petition should be denied.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- (1) The petition is hereby denied.
- (2) There being nothing further to be done in this matter, this matter is hereby dismissed.